

How to Collect

an Initial Sample

- **Collect the sample before any water has been used. Water should not be used for 8-18 hours before sampling.**
- Wash your hands.
- Complete the sample recording form.
- Only use containers (250 milliliter) supplied by your certified lab.
 - Containers should not be opened until you are ready to collect the sample.
 - Sampling containers that have been compromised in any way, e.g., by being touched on the threads or the interior surfaces, must not be used.
 - Keep food and drink away from the sample and its container.
 - If you are collecting a sample from a faucet, aerators and screens should be removed before taking samples.
 - Anything attached to the end of the faucet, e.g., hoses, should be removed before taking samples.
- Make sure no water has been withdrawn from the tap or water fountain before you collect the sample.
- Place the container under the faucet or drinking water fountain that is being tested and collect 250 milliliters of water.
 - If a faucet is being tested make sure you turn on the cold water tap.
- Turn on the water and fill the container without allowing any water to run down the drain.
- Close the container according to the instructions from your certified lab.
- Make sure the container is labeled with the same information from your sample recording form.
- Prepare the container for shipping according to the certified lab's instructions.
- Ship containers according to the certified lab's instructions.
- Samples must be delivered to the lab within 14 days of collection for proper testing.

How to Collect

a Flush (Follow Up) Sample

- **Collect the sample first thing in the morning before any water has been used. Water should not be used for 8-18 hours before sampling.**
- Wash your hands.
- Complete the sample recording form.
- Only use containers (250 milliliter) supplied by your certified lab.
 - Containers should not be opened until you are ready to collect the sample.
 - Sampling containers that have been compromised in any way, e.g., by being touched on the threads or the interior surfaces, must not be used.
 - Keep food and drink away from the sample and its container.
 - If you are collecting a sample from a faucet, aerators and screens should be removed before taking samples.
 - Anything attached to the end of the faucet, e.g., hoses, should be removed before taking samples.
- Make sure no water has been withdrawn from the tap or water fountain before you collect the sample.
 - If a faucet is being tested make sure you turn on the cold water tap.
- Turn on the water for the faucet or drinking water fountain and let it run down the drain for 30 seconds (you may be asked to run the water for a different length of time – make sure you run the water for the time instructed).
- Place the container under the faucet or drinking water fountain that is being tested and collect 250 milliliters of water.
- Turn on the water and fill the container without allowing any water to run down the drain.
- Close the container per instructions from your certified lab.
- Make sure the container is labeled with the same information from your sample recording form.
- Prepare the container for shipping per the certified lab's instructions.
- Ship containers per the certified lab's instructions.
- Samples must be delivered to the lab within 14 days of collection for proper testing.